

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 03240 01 OF 02 212254Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ICAE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 /193 W
-----069661 212307Z /15

R 212245Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2912

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03240

DEPT PASS ICA

E.O. 11651:N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS: - PRESS STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON,
AUGUST 21

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S PREPARED
STATEMENT AT NEWS CONFERENCE AT UN PRESS ROOM, AUGUST 21.
FULL TEXT AND PORTION OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS HEREIN.
SEND TO ALL POSTS ON ICA'S WIRELESS FILE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:
WHEN THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA RECESSED LAST MAY, IT
CLOSED ON A NOTE OF CONSIDERABLE SATISFICATION. EVEN THE
MOST JADED OBSERVER OF THIS LONG, TOUGH, COMPLEX INTER-
NATIONAL NEGOTIATION COULD NOT FAIL TO BE IMPRESSED BY ITS
SENSE OF PURPOSE, ITS FRESH COMMITMENT TO REDUCE SEEMINGLY
INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS THROUGH SOBER, REALISTIC GIVE-
AND-TAKE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 03240 01 OF 02 212254Z

IT MAY BE SAID ONE DAY THAT THE GENEVA PHASE WAS THE TUR-
NING POINT IN THE LIFE OF THE CONFERENCE -- THE TIME WHEN
SUSPICIONS WERE CALMED AND NORTH AND SOUTH TACITLY AGREED
THAT PRAGMATIC ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD PREVAIL.
FOR THE UNITED STATES, PROGRESS IN GENEVA WAS SUFFICIENT
FOR US TO RENEW OUR PLEDGE TO PURSUE AN EQUITABLE TREATY
BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT.

LET ME PAUSE AT THIS POINT TO EMPHASIZE THAT OUR SATISFACTION WITH THE IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE OF THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED TO MEAN THAT WE SEE A TREATY IN THE OFFING OR IMMINENT SOLUTIONS TO THE HARD-CORE ISSUES. WE ARE ENGAGED IN A LONG TERM EFFORT. IN THE CASE OF DEEP SEABED MINING, WE HAVE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO MANY PARTS OF THE GENEVA TEXTS EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE BETTER THAN THE INFORMAL COMPOSITE NEGOTIATING TEXT PRODUCED LAST YEAR AT THE END OF THE SIXTH SESSION.

THE GENEVA TEXTS ARE VALUABLE IN THAT THEY PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION AND MOVE THE CONFERENCE CLOSER TO THE GOAL OF CONSENSUS. BUT IF THE SPIRIT AND THE DEDICATION OF THE CONFERENCE ARE HIGH, SO ARE THE OBSTACLES TO CONSENSUS. THE WORK AHEAD ON THE SEABEDS TEXTS IS MORE DIFFICULT, MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO IMPASSE THAN ANYTHING UNDERTAKEN PREVIOUSLY.

DURING THIS RESUMED SESSION, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE CONFERENCE REFRAIN FROM GOING BACK OVER THE TEXTS DEVELOPED IN GENEVA. ALL DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZE THAT THE SUM OF AGREEMENTS REACHED TO THIS POINT HAVE A FILIGREE-LIKE CHARACTER. EACH IS DEPENDENT FOR ITS STRENGTH AND SURVIVAL ON OTHERS; EACH IS FRAGILE AND VULNERABLE BY ITSELF. TO TURN BACK NOW AND FOCUS ON A FEW ELEMENTS OF THE TEXTS COULD TOUCH OFF SHOCK WAVES WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT MANY OTHERS. WE WOULD RATHER SEE A CONTINUATION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 03240 01 OF 02 212254Z

OF FORWARD MOVEMENT AND CONSIDER CHANGES AT A LATER DATE IN LIGHT OF THE SEABEDS PACKAGE AS A WHOLE.

EVEN THOUGH IT IS FUELED WITH FRESH ENERGY, THE CONFERENCE CANNOT FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE FACTS WITH WHICH IT IS DEALING ARE CHANGING CONSTANTLY. PRIVATE CORPORATIONS OF SEVERAL INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY RISKED HEAVY INVESTMENT OF THEIR FUNDS IN SEABED MINING RESEARCH. COMMERCIAL APPLICATION OF THEIR RAPIDLY DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY IS ONLY A FEW YEARS AWAY.

TAKING ACCOUNT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS WELL ON THE WAY TO ENACTING LEGISLATION UNDER WHICH SEABED MINING BY AMERICAN CORPORATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE. THIS LEGISLATION IS AS INTERNATIONAL AS IT IS DOMESTIC IN CHARACTER.

-- IT RECOGNIZES OUR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CONCEPT THAT THE RESOURCES OF THE SEABED ARE THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND.

-- IT WILL BE SUPERSEDED WHENEVER A LAW OF THE SEA TREATY

TAKES EFFECT WITH REGARD TO THE UNITED STATES.

-- IT REQUIRES THAT REVENUES BE SET ASIDE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

-- IT ESTABLISHES STRINGENT STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

-- IT DOES NOT ASSERT ANY RIGHT OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER SEABED MINE SITES.

-- IT DOES NOT DECLARE OR IMPLY ANY INTENTION THAT AMERICAN SEABED MINING COMPANIES SHOULD REMAIN OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHEN AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY COMES INTO BEING.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 USUN N 03240 01 OF 02 212254Z

-- THE FORCES NOW IN MOTION ARE MOVING ACROSS THE BROAD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 03240 02 OF 02 212255Z

ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ICAE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 /193 W

-----069677 212309Z /15

R 212245Z AUG 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2913

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03240

FRONT. THEY CANNOT BE BLOCKED OR TURNED BACK. THE SEABEDS CONTAIN MINERALS IMPORTANT TO ECONOMIC GROWTH. THEY WILL BE MINED SOONER OR LATER WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A TREATY. THESE ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL REALITIES WHICH WE NEGOTIATE.

TURNING AGAIN TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH RESUME THIS WEEK,

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES IS, AS IT HAS BEEN THROUGHOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS, ACHIEVEMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY THAT PROTECTS OUR ESSENTIAL INTERESTS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, AT THE SAME TIME, THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE JUDGED TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF IT PROTECTS THE ESSENTIAL INTERESTS OF ALL NATIONS.

FOR THE UNITED STATES, THESE INTERESTS INCLUDE ASSURED ACCESS TO SEABED MINERALS. AS A COMPROMISE, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TRY TO CREATE A PARALLEL SYSTEM OF MINING WHICH ATTRACTS INVESTMENT, IS ECONOMICALLY VIABLE OVER THE LONG TERM, AND ACCOMMODATES THE JUST CLAIMS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD. THIS SYSTEM SHOULD ENSURE ACCESS AND TENURE BY ALL QUALIFIED MINERS, SET REALISTIC PRODUCTION CONTROLS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, PROVIDE FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY UNDER FAIR COMMERCIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 03240 02 OF 02 212255Z

ADMINISTERED BY AN INTERNATIONAL BODY WHICH MAKES DECISIONS ON A BASIS THAT RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANT INTERESTS AT STAKE IN INVESTMENT, PRODUCTION, AND CONSUMPTION.

THE SUM OF OTHER BENEFITS YIELDED BY THE CONFERENCE, WHILE NUMEROUS AND IMPRESSIVE, WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO PERSUADE US TO ACCEPT A SEABED MINING REGIME WHICH DOES NOT MEET THESE CRITERIA. WHETHER SUCH A REGIME IS NEGOTIABLE REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED.

ASIDE FROM DEEP SEABED ISSUES, THE CONFERENCE IS IN A POSITION TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD FINAL RESOLUTION OF OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THESE INCLUDE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PRECISE DEFINITION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

WITH RESPECT TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER WAYS TO CLARIFY AND IMPROVE THE TEXTS FROM THE PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SCIENCE WITHIN THE OVERALL JURISDICTIONAL FRAMEWORK THAT EMERGED FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS. EVERY COUNTRY SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT NATURAL PROCESSES IN A FOREIGN ECONOMIC ZONE MAY ULTIMATELY AFFECT ITS OWN CITIZENS IN VERY IMPORTANT WAYS. MOREOVER, IT MAY NOT BE PRACTICAL TO CARRY OUT EXPENSIVE PROJECTS IF ONE COASTAL STATE OBJECTS TO IT, EVEN THOUGH ITS NEIGHBORS WANT THE PROJECT TO GO FORWARD. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION INTENDS TO EXPLORE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TEXT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE CONDUCT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

THE AMERICAN DELEGATION APPROACHES THIS RESUMED SESSION

HOPEFUL THAT THE MOMENTUM DEVELOPED AT GENEVA WILL BE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 03240 02 OF 02 212255Z

SUSTAINED AND THAT THESE FOUR WEEKS WILL MOVE US CLOSER TO
THE GOAL OF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPREHENSIVE TREATY.
AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE ALL TOO KEENLY AWARE THAT THE CON-
FERENCE STILL FACES FORMIDABLE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL REQUIRE
ALL OUR COLLECTIVE WISDOM AND PATIENCE TO RESOLVE.
LEONARD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780341-1174
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780840/aaaabhfh.tel
Line Count: 237
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ed0cdd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1671078
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: - PRESS STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON, AUGUST 21
TAGS: PLOS, US, LOS, (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed0cdd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014